

Harbinger

SPRINGFIELD CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

VOI 18 NO 5

Can you list ten skills that you would not be able to survive without? How about three such skills? Can you think of even one? While we may have a difficult time answering such questions, our not-sodistant ancestors would have had no problem. A few generations ago the list of necessary survival skills was much longer than it is today. If you lived in the Ozarks 200 years ago, you probably wouldn't have survived long had you not been able to hunt, fish, start a fire, or clean and prepare game. Your skill set may seem more complex today, like

would die without.

The next few months at the nature center will be an excellent time to experience and practice the outdoor skills that at one time were considered essential for everyday survival.

driving a car, program-

ming a VCR, or filing

taxes, but these are

hardly skills that you

There is a long tradition of hunting in the Ozarks. Early settlers hunted for their very survival, but today we hunt almost exclusively for sport. Of course, today hunting is an outdoor skill that is heavily regulated. For instance, Missouri hunters born on or after January 1, 1967, must be hunter education certified. If you'd like to take part in Missouri's rich tradition of hunting, register for one of the hunter education seminars we will be hosting on September 11 and 12 or October 22 and 23 which will give you the certification you need.

Early settlers in the Ozarks may not have spent a week backpacking through the woods just for the enjoyment of it, but today backpacking is a popular pastime. There is plenty of skill involved in selecting and properly packing your equipment. Don Brink and Lance Carlson will help you decide which gear is essential, which is simply handy, and which is totally unnecessary in their program "Backpacking for

Beginners" on September 16.

some modern archery equipment be sure to attend "Archery for Beginners" and "Bowhunting Basics" on September 18.

Still not sure if any of these activities are for you? Would you like to experience a variety of outdoor activities until you find one that suits you? Then make plans to attend the "Great Outdoors Day" event on September 25. You will be able to try your hand at fishing, canoeing, shooting sports, and a

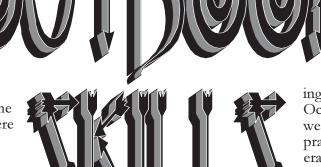
range of other outdoor skills. You're sure to find something that suits you during this day-long event.

If you like the idea of a history lesson along with your outdoor fun, you should consider attend-

ing "Primitive Skills Day" on October 10. During this event, we'll focus on skills that man has practiced since the pre-historic era. Several primitive skills specialists will be on hand to demonstrate age-old outdoor skills such as fire building, flint

knapping, and making cordage—weaving rope from plant fibers.

So join us over the next couple of months and practice one or more of these outdoor skills. See the program descriptions in the newsletter for program times and locations. You probably won't be as handy with a flint and steel firebuilding kit as your ancestors were but if it's any consolation, they wouldn't have known how to "flick a Bic."



When discussing outdoor skills, you must consider the technologies developed by indigenous people throughout the world. In North America, one of the primary hunting tools was the bow and arrow. Though the technology has changed in the past few hundred years, the principles of archery have not. A steady hand, controlled breathing, and a little muscle are all you need—physics takes care of the rest. If you'd like to try your hand with

Chipping Joyce Tolliver

What do literature, ladybugs, and little ones have in common? The answer is Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver, also known as "Ms. Ladybug." She uses children's literature as an umbrella for her own kind of teaching style and as a way for young children to connect with

Joyce started coming to the nature center as a kindergarten teacher. She brought her class annually for programs as an outdoor extension for what they were learning in the classroom. After 28 years at Springfield's Pittman El-

ementary School, she retired and decided to apply for the volunteer naturalist program. After training, she started volunteering by putting together teacher resource bags containing program materials, conservation resource information, program evaluation forms, Harbinger newsletters, and enough stickers for each student to take home following their field trip to the nature center. She puts together 30 to 40 teacher bags each month.

In July 2003, she started her signature program called "Story Time with Ms.

The View From The Bridge

Another exciting season of Nature And The Arts kicks off this month and continues through March. Nature photography starts the season with two photographers who are making return engagements to showcase their unique

photographic styles.

Entomologist Dr. Tom Riley presents the first program in the season with Photographing Butterflies, Bugs, and Other Small Creatures on Friday, September 17, 7-8pm. His aesthetically pleasing insect photography goes beyond simple documentation to create strong, appealing images of insects. An Insects Photography Workshop (for adults only) by Dr. Riley follows on Saturday, September 18, 10am-3pm. You can also plan to drop by to Meet the Photographer on Sunday, September 12, 2-5pm, and enjoy his latest

photography exhibit on display through the end of September.

Conservation Wildlife Photographer Jim Rathert has delighted Missouri Conservationist readers with his exquisite photos of wild Missouri. Jim returns to present an illustrated program about his approach to nature photography with specific reference to his new photo book during Jim Rathert IN FOCUS on Friday, October 15, 7-8pm. If you can't make it to the program, you can simply come for a Book Signing on Friday, October 15, 2-4pm. Personalized copies of his book will also be for sale following the 7pm program.

A Lewis & Clark theme dominates the final three programs of the season. Conservation Department Education Consultant Michael Fraser returns on Friday, January 28, 7-8pm, to present The Fiddling Frenchman. During this program he'll portray Cruzatte, a member of the Corps of Discovery, who was skilled both as a boatman and as a musician. The program will combine conservation and history with traditional fiddle tunes.

On Friday, February 11, 7-8pm, the nature center's own James Dixon dons the character of York, Captain William Clark's slave, who also completed the journey with Lewis & Clark in Improbable Explorer. Learn about the significance of his role in this historic journey and see the landscape of 200

years ago through his eyes and words.

The series concludes with another Conservation Department employee. Kyle Carroll, Conservation Agent from Dekalb County, presents Frontier America, History On Canvas on Friday, March 11, 7-8pm. His paintings depict the relationship between man and his environment and the story of survival on the American frontier. Enjoy the stories behind the paintings from one who has sought the wilderness and experienced wild America firsthand.

Each program requires advance registration and is limited to ages 15 and above. Watch future newsletter issues for additional details about this series. Keep this schedule and make plans to attend these programs celebrating nature as a source of inspiration for a variety of artists.

Linda F. Chorice Nature Center Manager Ladybug" on the second Wednesday of each month. Yes, she dresses in a ladybug costume, has a ladybug doormat, wears glasses with ladybugs, and always has a table of books. Her 30minute program features nature stories, songs, and a craft activity designed for young participants to take home. This popular preschool program averages about 40 participants each month. She is also involved in the Hiking Club, patrols the nature center trails, assists with Little Acorn classes, and can be found working several of our special

Joyce knows how important it is to get children involved in reading at an early age. Through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, she donates 30 minutes each school week as a "Reading Buddy" to help an individual student at Pittman Elementary improve their reading skills. As a part-time employee with Ozarks Public Television, she presents workshops for parents and child-care professionals on the importance of a balanced mix between reading and television.

Her organizational skills are outstanding. Her gift for teaching shows through in every program she does. Her love of little ones, ladybugs, and literature makes her a valuable part of our conservation team and we want to thank Joyce (aka "Ms Ladybug") for

chipping in.

Thank you

We would like to thank the following people for donating various natural objects: Matt and Mandy Christy, Ruby Crumm, Jackie Kelly, John Pendergrass, Haley and Arden Short, Sheri Smith, and Cody and Hanna Smith. Thanks also to Ken Cameron, E. Rule Olson, Allen and Sherry Rose, Elizabeth Short, and William Vick for their contributions.

Volunteer Milestones

Ted Lane	1000 Hours
Doug Gilliam	400 Hours
Sally Inskeep	300 Hours
Jack Bowers	100 Hours
Andy Busch	100 Hours
Mary Murphy	100 Hours
Sue Schuble	100 Hours
Dana Tideman	100 Hours
Carol Van Eaton	100 Hours

September Events at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center For programs requiring registration and 1900 1997 For programs requiring registration, call 888-4237.

Registration for all programs begins the first day of the month.

Meet The Photographer Sunday, 2-5pm

Drop by anytime to meet photographer and entomologist Dr. Tom Riley and to view his artistic insect photography.

Summer Hummers *Sunday*, 5-6:30pm

Here's a last chance send-off for the ruby-throated hummingbirds as they head for Mexico. Hummingbird bander Sarah Driver will share her knowledge about these tiny birds and attempt to capture and band some. Families. Registration required.

4 For Adults Only Creek Fishing *Tuesday*, 6-9:30pm

Beat the heat by wading in a local creek for some late summertime creek fishing. Rods, reels, and tackle will be provided if needed. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

Dragons Of The InsectWorld Wednesday, 7-9pm

Dragonflies may look beautiful and delicate, but to insects they are fierce and hungry predators. Join Volunteer Naturalist Mike Mihalik and learn about the lifestyles of these mysterious dragons of the insect world. Families. Registration required.

Primitive Skills Series **ID** Backpacking For Beginners *Thursday*, 7-9pm

Join two avid outdoorsmen, Volunteer Specialist Don Brink and special guest Lance Carlson, for an introduction to backpacking. Learn about the types of equipment, things beginners should know, and places to go in the Ozarks. Ages 10-adult. Registration required.

Nature And The Arts Photographing Butterflies, Bugs, And Other Small Creatures

Friday, 7-8pm Photographer and Entomologist Dr. Tom Riley returns to present the first program in this season of Nature And The Arts. His aesthetically pleasing insect photography goes beyond simple documentation to create strong, appealing images of insects. Hear descriptions of his fascinating subjects and learn the techniques that go into creating his photographs. Ages 15-adult. Registration required.

Archery For Beginners

Saturday, 8:30am-Noon Learn the basics of archery and spend time practicing your new skills at the shooting range at Bois D'Arc Conservation Area. Meet at the range and you may bring your own gear, if you have it.

Ages 11-adult. Registration required.

Insect Photography Workshop
Saturday, 10am-3pm
After a morning session learning the

technical aspects and artistic secrets of Tom Riley's stunning insect photography, travel outdoors for a two-hour field experience as you try your hand at photographing these diminutive subjects. Bring a sack lunch and your camera equipment. (List of recommended equipment will be mailed.) Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

Bowhunting Basics Saturday, 1-4pm

Gain hands-on experience in tracking, scouting, stand selection, and estimating target distance. We'll cover equipment, clothing, use of scents, deer stands, and shooting. Meet at the shooting range at Bois D'Arc Conservation Area. Ages 11-adult. Registration required.

22 Babes In The Woods Celebrates Autumn Wednesday, 11-11:45am

Introduce your favorite 0-2 year old to the wonders of the first day of autumn. Bring a stroller and join the fun. Registration required.

Bark, Buds, and Leaves Thursday, 4-5pm

Are you stumped by trees? Do you need to identify leaves for a school project? Join Volunteer Naturalist Earl Niewald as he helps you identify Missouri trees. Meet at Living Memorial Park. Ages 9-12. Registration required.

Conservation TEEN Club Aquatic Invertebrates Sunday. 1-5pm

Aquatic invertebrates are important indicators of water quality as well as sources of food for many other animals. After a hands-on study and ID session indoors, hike down to Galloway Creek to take samples of aquatic invertebrates. Ages 12-17. Registration required.

Conservation Kids' Club 🗘 Just Like Lewis & Clark II

Tuesday, 6:30-7:45pm Lewis & Clark had to find their way to the Pacific and back and keep their crew fed along the way. Learn how to hunt and trap and "dead reckon" your way home in this second Lewis & Clark skills night. Ages 7-12 only. Registration required.

Crepuscular Creep Wednesday, 7-8:30pm Crepuscular creatures are active in the

shadowy periods of dusk and dawn. We'll see and hear what's creeping about on this guided evening trek. Families. Registration required.

Hiking Club * Saturday, 8am-7pm

Join Volunteer Naturalist Mike Mihalik for a hike on a portion of the Ozark Trail near the Current River and Rocky Creek. Hike is seven miles and of moderate difficulty. Pack a sack lunch, bring plenty of water, and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Ages 18-adult. Registration begins August 15.

Hike & Seek Trail Hike Saturday, 9-11am

Spend a morning exploring a section of the Ozark Greenways Galloway Trail. Meet at the nature center and play hike-and-seek as you hike three miles to Sequiota Park. Families.

Monarchs Kule! Saturday, 1-3pm

Every fall millions of monarch butterflies wing over the Ozarks to their winter home in Mexico. Join Volunteer Naturalists Bob and Ruby Ball to explore the fascinating behavior and life cycle of these beautiful travelers. Families. Registration begins August 15.

Story Time With Ms. Ladybug Wednesday, 11-11:30am Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story. Ages 2-6.

Hunter Education Saturday, 8am-5pm and Sunday, 2-5pm

This 10-hour course is required for anyone born after January 1, 1967, who wants to hunt with firearms. On Saturday, the course will be from 8am to 5pm (lunch break given-lunch not provided) and continue on Sunday from 2 to 5pm. You must pass a written test to be certified. Ages 11-adult. Call today to register.

Babes In The Woods Celebrates Grandparents' Day *Saturday*, 11-11:45am

Grandparents, celebrate your special relationship with your grandchildren, ages 0-2, on a guided nature stroll. Bring a stroller and enjoy some special time outdoors! Registration required.

Beginning Photography *Sunday*, 1:30-4:30pm

This introductory course will cover basic 35mm photography using nature as the primary subject. The workshop includes a lecture by Volunteer Naturalist Art Daniels and a field session. Bring a 35mm camera, tripod (if available), film, and lenses. Ages 15-adult. Registration required.



October Events at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center For programs requiring registration, call 888-4237.

Registration for all programs begins the first day of the month.

Hiking Club Saturday, 8am TO Sunday, 7pm

Explore the ecological diversity of Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. We'll hike five miles along the swamp then camp at a nearby campground. On Sunday, we'll hike another section of the refuge. Ages 18-adult. Registration begins September 15.

Hiked It . . . Liked It Saturday, 9-11am

Enjoy a family naturalist-guided hike.

A Morning With Smokey Bear Saturday, 10-11am

Our favorite bear is back and eager to recruit new friends to help him spread his message. Bring a camera to pose for a picture with Smokey. Families.

Fall Fungi *Friday*, 7-8:30pm

While most people think of spring as the only season to enjoy mushrooms, fall offers a wide array of fungi. From edible to poisonous and from their use in papermaking to natural dyeing, Dr. Ken Olson, Professor Emeritus of Biology from College of the Ozarks, shares his expertise. Learn which mushrooms are to "die" for, which to avoid "dying" from, and which are for "dyeing" with. Ages 15-adult. Registration required.

Conservation TEEN CLub WOW: Behind-The-Scenes

Saturday, 1-5pm Join us as we visit the Wonders of Wildlife Zooquarium. After exploring the museum, we'll be treated to a behind-the-scenes tour. We'll see some of the machinery and planning that goes into keeping the museum residents happy and healthy. Ages 12-17. Registration required.

Primitive Skills Day Sunday, 1-5pm

Back by popular demand! See demonstrations in flint knapping, bow and arrow construction, hide-tanning, making cordage out of plant fibers, beadwork, and fire making from some of the Ozarks' best primitive skills specialists. Volunteer Specialist Don Brink is joined by Bo Brown; T.C., Wanda, and Meagan Corning; Seth Entwisle; Ted and Jan Laney; Larry Maggard; and others.

Story Time With Ms. Ladybug Wednesday, 11-11:30am Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story. Ages 2-6.

4 Babes In The Woods Thursday, 6-6:45pm

Join us for a guided nature stroll. Bring your 0-2 year old and a stroller to enjoy the beauty of a crisp, colorful autumn day. Registration required.

 Babes In The Woods Friday, 10-10:45am [Same as October 14]

Jim Rathert IN FOCUS

2-4pm Meet The Photographer:

Meet and visit with wildlife photographer Jim Rathert and pick up a copy of his new book: *Jim Rathert IN FOCUS*. **7-8pm Program**: For 19 years Jim Rathert has delighted Missouri Conservationist readers with exquisite photographs of wild Missouri. Jim will present an illustrated program about his approach to nature photography with specific reference to his new photo book, Jim Rathert IN FOCUS. Jim shares his knowledge and techniques for photographing in the wild along with his conservation philosophy. Ages 15-adult. A book signing will follow the program. Registration required.

Conservation Crew Glade Restoration *Saturday*, 8am-1:30pm

Help restore a glade at Rocky Barrens Conservation Area to its natural state by removing invading cedar trees. We need people to drag trees to the wood chipper. Afterwards, you're welcome to take cedar chips for your landscaping needs. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring gloves, wear long sleeves, and sturdy footwear. Lunch is provided as well as a tour of the glade by Conservation Department Biologist Mike Skinner. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

Intermediate Photography Sunday, 1:30-4:30pm

This course will cover 35mm photography using nature as the primary subject. The workshop includes a lecture by Volunteer Naturalist Art Daniels and a photography session in the field. Bring a 35mm camera, film, lenses, and a tripod. Ages 15-adult. Registration required.

Bat Chat Thursday, 7-8pm

Ravenous. Rabid. Bloodsuckers. These words are often used to describe bats, but are they accurate? Join Miranda Milam-Dunbar, SMSU Graduate Student, as she sheds some light on these nocturnal animals. Families. Registration required.

Peer Hunting For Beginners Thursday, 7-9:30pm

The first part of this program is for novice and avid deer hunters alike. A Conservation Agent answers questions about deer hunting regulations--old and new. Afterwards, we'll give an overview of all the basics for novice deer hunters: places to hunt, scouting techniques, shooting safety, and more. Ages 11-adult. Registration required.

Hunter Education Friday, 6-9pm and Saturday, 8am-5pm

This 10-hour course is required for anyone born after January 1, 1967, who wants to hunt with firearms in Missouri. This course is continued on Saturday from 8am to 5pm (lunch break given—lunch not provided). You must pass a written test to be certified. Ages 11-adult. Call today to register.

For Adults Only Hike And Float *Saturday*, 8-11:30am

What better way to enjoy a cool autumn morning than by a hike and a float trip. We'll hike the nature center and Ozark Greenways trails then float back to the nature center on Springfield Lake. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

Sweet Songs From Missouri Woodlands

Saturday, 2-4pm

Stop by to enjoy dulcimer melodies performed by Paul M. Harvey and to learn about various wood products made from native Missouri trees.

Spiders! **U** Tuesday, 7-8pm

Spooked by spiders? Worried about web spinners? Or do you find arachnids amazing? If you answered "yes," then this program is for you. We'll untangle the web of deceit surrounding spiders. Families. Registration required.

Halloween Happening
Thursday, 6:30-9:30pm OR 29 Friday, 6:30-9:30pm
Our Halloween-style look

at conservation returns. This year join Little Red Riding Hood as she faces her fear of the dark and learns some important lessons about how animals survive in the dark. Guided hikes will be led on a first-come, first-served basis with the last hike leaving at 9pm. This guided hike is guaranteed to be insightful, not frightful! All ages.

Movies are shown each Sunday from 2 to 3pm

Little Acorns ...

Little Acorns programs are for children 3-6 years and are 45-minutes in length. Please limit **Little Acorns** programs to one per month. Registration begins the first day of the month.

September

Hey! Big Daddy

Hey! Who is hurrying, scurrying, and weaving in and out of the leaf litter? It's Big Daddy Longlegs! Hurry in to find out some amazing facts about these long-legged forest creatures.

Friday, September 10, 11am or 1pm Saturday, September 11, 1pm

Butterfly Magic

Butterflies grow up in a magical way. Volunteer Naturalist Tracy Richter takes us through the butterfly's life cycle–from its humble beginnings to its glorious finish.

Friday, September 17, 11am or 1pm Saturday, September 18, 11am

Marvelous Mantids

"Mysterious," "strange looking," and even "cute" are words that have been used to describe this fascinating insect. Although praying mantids may look peaceful, come and find out why they are called the "panthers" of the insect world!

Friday, September 24, 11am or 1pm Saturday, September 25, 11am

October

Not-So-Spooky Spiders

Spiders may look strange or even creepy, but they're definitely <u>not</u> spooky! Learn all about the helpful habits of these tiny creatures.

Wednesday, October 6, 10am or 1pm

Get A Bat Attitude

Go batty with Volunteer Naturalist Michele Skalicky and learn why humans need bats, why bats need friends, and why bats need friends like you.

Saturday, October 16, 11am or 1pm

Pabbling Pucks

Can you walk and talk like a duck? If you walk the walk and talk the talk, then come by to find out what all the quacking is about.

Thursday, October 21, 11am, 1pm, or 6pm



at Bois D'Arc Conservation Area Saturday, September 25 8:30am to 4pm

Celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day with your family at Bois D'Arc Conservation Area located west of Willard.

Bring your fishing pole and bait to try your luck at a speciallystocked pond from 8:30 to 10:30am or 1 to 4pm. Participate in outdoor skills such as firearms, caving, archery, fly casting, enjoy a demonstration on working dogs, and much more! Call the Bois D'Arc Conservation Area at 417/742-4361 for directions and information.

Attention, Scout Leaders and Parents: Your scouts can have fun while satisfying certain badge/achievement requirements at the Great Outdoors Day event. Call the nature center to receive a flier.

Nature Nook Gift Shop

The featured special is the computer game **Habitactics 2 Urban Oasis** for \$8 during September and October. This game challenges players to create a healthy place for urban wildlife to live.

Temporary Displays ...

September: Insect Photography by Entomologist Dr. Thomas J. Riley October: Crab Spiders Photography by Ball Ball

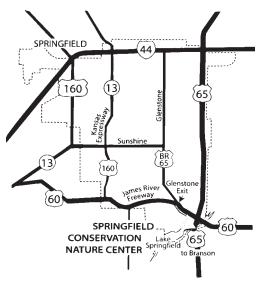
Harbinger Highlights . . .

Defined, harbinger (pronounced här'bĭn-jər) is anything that fore-shadows a future event; omen; sign. There are several very welcome harbingers of fall. Two that immediately come to mind are the vivid reds, yellows, and oranges that splash the Ozark hillsides along with the cooler breezes of September and October. With these changes, thoughts once again turn to outdoor activities. Consider exploring the colors of fall by hiking these areas:

Busiek State Forest and Conservation Area - Located 18 miles south of Springfield on Highway 65. Self-guided nature trails through oak-hickory forests and beautiful gravel-bottom creeks are just some of the attractions of this area.

Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area - Located on Highway 76 in Branson, just 0.5 miles west of the intersection of Shepherd of the Hills Expressway and Highway 76. Oak-hickory forest and glades are part of the beauty to be seen. Check out the Henning Homesteaders Trail on the north side of the area, too.

Stop by the Nature Center for more information on these and other colorful fall hiking areas.



HOURS—The area is open daily 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. from March 1 to October 31, and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the remainder of the year. The building is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. year 'round. The building and area are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The area is closed to pets, bicycles, roller blades, hunting, fishing, collecting, and alcoholic beverages. No fees are charged.

STAFF

SPRINGFIELD CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

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Mike Tillman	. Maintenance
Mike Wilson	Maintenance

Back by popular demand!

Halloween Happening

Thursday, October 28 or Friday, October 29 6:30-9:30pm

Our Halloween-style look at conservation returns by popular demand. This year join Little Red Riding Hood as she faces her fear of the dark and learns some important lessons from some very interesting characters about how animals survive in the dark. Guided hikes will be led on a first-come, first-served basis with the last hike leaving at Opm. Other activities will take place in the building. This guided hike is guaranteed to be insightful, not frightful! All ages. No registration required.

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